



KENTUCKY READING FIRST UPDATE (6) January 2005

Starting out the new year, the KDE Reading First Team would like to highlight some positive things that have occurred while implementing Kentucky Reading First.

- 1) All schools are implementing their core programs with a protected block of instruction for 90 minutes. Several districts and schools have extended this time to 120 minutes.
- 2) All schools have administered their required assessments and are beginning to use the information to inform instructional practices. Two of the three assessment windows have passed.
- 3) Reading First professional development is well established. Approximately 1,364 teachers and principals attended the 2004 Summer Institutes.
- 4) School Coaches have seen their monthly meetings as a great place to network and gain additional professional development to assist them in their role.

The KDE Reading First Team is committed to meeting the goals and objectives outlined in our state approved plan. We intend to provide continued technical assistance and support for all of our funded sites.

I. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Principals' Institute

KDE will be hosting a follow up to the fall Principals' Institute. It is scheduled for Friday, February 18, 2005 at the Capital Plaza Holiday Inn in Frankfort. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., adjourning at 4:00 p.m. (EST). All principals are strongly encouraged to attend this session. The agenda has been designed in response to the evaluations received from the fall session. Superintendents and District Coaches are invited to attend this session with their principal. Please RSVP to Mr. Kiley Whitaker at kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us <<mailto:kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us>> or 502-564-7056 on or before Friday, February 11th.

Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference (Pre-conference session) - "Fierce Conversations in Reading First Schools"

The KDE Reading First Team has designed an exciting 1.5 days professional development experience for Reading First districts and school teams. The session will be held all day Wednesday, March 2nd and the morning of Thursday, March 3rd at the Louisville Kentucky International Convention Center in rooms 105 - 108. A national presenter will engage us in discussions and activities related to enhancing conversations in Reading First buildings. The text selected to support our experience is a book entitled, *Fierce Conversations*, by Susan Scott.

We are requesting each Reading First site to send a team of individuals for this professional development experience. A team approach has been recommended in order to gain a clear perspective on conducting effective conversations to improve overall communications. School teams should be comprised of the following individuals: 1) school principal, 2) School Reading First Coach, 3) a primary teacher, and 4) the District Reading First Coach. Each team will receive one copy of the text prior to the session. A special registration is required in order to attend. Please complete the attached RSVP, identifying your team members that will be attending. Hotel accommodations can be made through the KTLC website on passkey.

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KTLC/Lodging/default.htm>



KTLC RF Meeting
2005 Registrat...

2nd Annual National Reading First Conference - July 26 - 28, 2005
Convention Center, New Orleans, LA

Recently, at a State Directors' meeting, the USDoE Reading First Office indicated that schools should be receiving information about this conference very soon. The USDoE Office has requested that schools send only two representatives, due to limited conference space. Last year over 5,000 participants nationwide attended. This year's conference could top 10,000 participants from the 4,700 Reading First schools. KDE requests you send the School Coach and a primary teacher or special education teacher.

II. STATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/MONITORING

State Coach Monthly Meetings

The January Coaches' monthly meeting was last week. The topic for this session focused on assisting districts and schools in collecting evidence for high quality implementation of their Reading First plan. Following our last federal monitoring visit, the KDE Reading First Team began work on the monitoring tool that will be used to determine a district's or school's eligibility for continued project funding. Hence, the State Reading First Coaches provided explicit technical assistance to assist districts and schools throughout this process. We hope that principals were able to attend these meetings.

III. BUDGET SUPPORT

The next expenditure report is due Tuesday, January 25, 2005. If you have any questions related to your budgetary issues, please contact Thelma Hawkins at 502-564-1979.

Recently, there have been some inquiries about purchasing computer hardware. Although, some amendments for hardware have been approved; these are minimal. The Reading First legislation clearly states that funding can be expended for software and other digital curricula. The Kentucky Reading First plan is not a technology grant and sites should have conducted a needs assessment before program selection was approved.

We have had some requests for Reading First funds to pay for graduate credit coursework. The KDE Reading First Team has approved requests for School Coaches pursuing a graduate program specializing in reading. It is the goal of the agency to have highly qualified individuals in our coaching positions.

IV. ASSESSMENTS

AGS/GRADE

Most of you are in the process of reviewing your GRADE data results. If you are finding problems, please forward that information to your State Coach and Kiley Whitaker (kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us <<mailto:kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us>>).

The spring testing window for GRADE has been extended to May 11, 2005. All testing must be completed and student booklets must be delivered to AGS by that date.

WIRELESS/DIBELS

The Wireless Generation system will roll over to Spring Testing on April 1st. This means that all Palms synced after this date will rollover to the end of year probes, to be used for end of year assessing. Reports from the previous cycle (mid year) will be moved to the history reports on the Wireless website.

V. NATIONAL/STATE EVALUATION

National Evaluation

Recently, I was contacted by Sandi Jacobs in the USDoE Reading First Office about district participation in one component of the national evaluation. As a reminder, participation in national or state evaluations is non-negotiable. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

State Evaluation

The CCLD has completed an Executive Summary of the State Evaluation for Reading First sites. Please go to the KDE Reading First web page to access this report.

The State Evaluation team is starting the second round of observations in the twenty case study sites. This will involve observations in classrooms, interviews with District and School Coaches and interviews with two children per grade level. In addition, focus group meetings will be held on day one.